

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

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December 27, 1999

The Honorable Frank Kelty  
Mayor  
City of Unalaska  
PO Box 610  
Unalaska, AK 996850610

Dear Mayor Kelty:



Thank you for your letter concerning the analysis of additional trips for the M/V Tustumena to ports west of Kodiak. We're well aware that this portion of Southwest Alaska would benefit from additional levels of service.

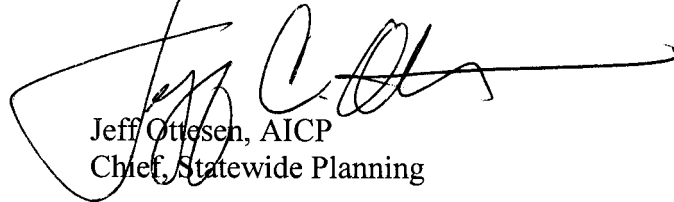
Your letter asked us to favorably consider the option which portrays 22 trips per year to Unalaska, and to further consider moving the layover period for the M/V Tustumena to the mid-January to mid-March time period.

On the first matter, I appreciate your interest and support in additional service. The consultant's analysis does show that reallocating the MN Tustumena to increase service between Homer and Kodiak, and an increase in trips west of Kodiak would positively affect the cash flow to the Alaska Marine Highway System. It also increases ferry service levels to communities with very expensive air travel and declining barge service.

On the second matter of scheduling the downtime for the M/V Tustumena, this is more an operational consideration and not the subject of a regional transportation plan. However, I have forwarded your letter to Captain Doll, Director of AMHS for his review and consideration.

**At** this time no official recommendations or decisions have been made, in draft or final form. I thank your for your comment and hope that we can formulate a plan that fulfills regional expectations. I look forward to continuing the dialog. I would also direct you to our web site for the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan, where you can find all relevant documents and copies of correspondence concerning the plan:  
[http://www.dot.state.ak.us/external/state\\_wide/planning/pb/swatplan.html](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/external/state_wide/planning/pb/swatplan.html)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Ottesen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Ottesen, AICP  
Chief, Statewide Planning

Cc: Captain Doll, Director, Alaska Marine Highway System